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NBC Nightly News highlights Troops to Teachers Iraqi vet

The Troops to Teachers program gained national exposure last month when one of its participants was featured on NBC's Nightly News.

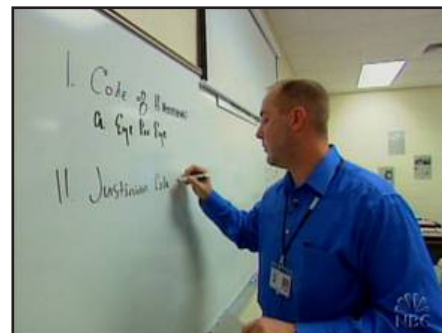
In a reoccurring series called "Coming Home", National Guard Sgt. Daniel Worley was shown working with his new "troops", students from his Charlotte (N.C.) Olympic High School social studies class.

Worley was serving in Iraq just two years ago, before coming home in 2005 and starting the teacher certification program at UNC-Charlotte. With financial help through Troops to Teachers, he received his certification and started his teaching career in August.

"I learned just to be patient because you can't win a war in a day," Worley said during the broadcast. "If I can reach one kid a day, it keeps me coming back the next day."

NBC correspondent Michelle Kosinski went to Olympic High to talk to Worley and some of his students.

"I thought he was going to be like this strict guy coming out of the military, pushups and everything, but he's cool. He's real cool," 10th-grader Charney Watt told the cameras. "And real calm."



National Guard Sgt. Daniel Worley was featured on NBC Nightly News

Watch the video

To view the NBC Nightly News segment on Troops to Teachers click [here](#).

"I think his willingness to learn and his willingness to help out are just two traits that come right out of the military," Olympic H.S. principal Ayinde Rudolph said. "You know, he always wants to get better."

On Nov. 25, a longer version of the story ran on the Today Show, Weekend Edition.

The segment included the interview with Mr. Worley, along with an interview with Georgia U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, one of the early proponents

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Hail and Farewell to the Chief

TTT's only Chief to retire after 13 years

The only Chief the Troops to Teachers program has known is stepping down.

Dr. John Gantz — who was selected as Chief when the program was started in 1994 — will retire in February after 13 years with the program, during which nearly 10,000 military veterans began new careers in public schools as teachers.

“Without a doubt, the past thirteen years as Chief of Troops to Teachers has been the most satisfying and gratifying of my public service career,” he said. “The men and women who begin new careers as public school teachers bring to America’s classrooms not only subject matter knowledge, they bring leadership, determination, dedication, commitment, focus on mission accomplishment and a desire to do the best they can do to help their students achieve and succeed.”

During his 42-plus year career with DoD’s voluntary education programs, he has served as Education Director for bases in Europe and the Far East, as well staff positions at HQ Department of the Army and the US Forces Command. He began his employment with DANTES as the DANTES European Education Advisor and later assumed the position as the DANTES Deputy Director before accepting his current position.

In recognition for his years of service in assisting men and women of the Armed Forces achieve their educational goals, Dr. Gantz was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in May 2006 in Dallas, Texas. He earned a master’s degree in adult education from George Washington University and a doctorate in adult and higher education from the University of Southern California.



Dr. John Gantz

“This has truly been the most rewarding part of a very fulfilling career. All of us at the DANTES Troops to Teachers office, as well as those in our State Offices are proud to serve those who are ‘Proud to Serve Again’,” he said. “I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to every ‘Troop’ who has taken the challenge to begin a new career in public education: you are the people who have made Troops to Teachers a successful and effective program.

“Thank you all for what you do for our public school students and best wishes for continued success.”



Dr. John Gantz, shown here meeting with First Lady Laura Bush in 2001, is retiring after spending the past 13 years as Chief of the Troops to Teachers program.

TTT briefs

TTT breaks 9,600 mark

Troops to Teachers has broken the 9,600 mark according to the program's latest status report.

As of Jan. 1, the report states that 9,623 teachers have been hired through the program, with Troops to Teachers represented in more than 3,000 school districts across the country.



Texas leads the way with 1,541 hires, followed by Florida (741), Virginia (684), California (588) and Georgia (577).

CCAF instructors eligible to teach in Fla.

Qualified instructors from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), located at Alabama's Maxwell-Gunter AFB, can now take a state-issued subject-knowledge exam to meet requirements for K-12 teaching certification in Florida, after Florida legislators recently amended their educator certification statute.

The new Florida provisions allow CCAF instructors to meet Florida's general knowledge, professional preparation and teacher competence requirements, providing the CCAF instructor holds at least a bachelor's degree, has taught at least two full-time semesters and has passed at least one of Florida's subject-knowledge exams.



CCAF has been working with several state Departments of Education and civilian

educational institutions offering teacher certification programs to enhance recognition of CCAF instructors.

"We feel Florida was the first to step up to the plate to do the right thing, and we applaud the Florida Department of Education in their efforts," said J.R. Breeding, chief of Licensure and Certification Programs at CCAF. "We hope other states will follow suit in time."

In the classroom



Perry Mills, a 20-year Army veteran, helps his students at Olympia Learning Center in Richland, S.C., prepare for an exam by playing 'Jeopardy' with exam questions. Photo courtesy of Tim Dickinson, www.TheState.com.

In the news

Look for a Troops to Teachers feature in late January/early February on www.EducationWorld.com, an education Web site that includes original columns and features, as well as lesson plans and employment listings.

Also, look for a Spouses to Teachers article in the March issue of Family magazine. Spouses to Teachers, a Department of Defense pilot program, helps military spouses work toward a career in teaching.

TTT education news

NLNS leadership program deadline March 1

You have been a military leader and a classroom teacher. Now maximize your expertise and lead a school to help ALL children achieve.

By attracting talented educators and providing extensive training and support over three years, New Leaders for New Schools is creating a new generation of results-oriented, transformational school leaders.

New Leaders for New Schools' training program prepares participants to become outstanding principals through a comprehensive program. New Leaders provides individuals with rigorous, hands-on training; a yearlong, full-time residency with a mentor principal; three years of ongoing coaching and support from successful veteran principals; and a lifelong community of like-minded peers. Each New Leader receives three years of fully-funded training and support.



Learn more about NLNS

To learn more about New Leaders for New Schools, and to apply for their program, visit them online at www.nlms.org.

By fundamentally reshaping how principals are prepared, New Leaders for New Schools has seeded significant improvement in urban schools and school systems around the country.

Today, 328 New Leaders' principals and residents are leading change for over 160,000 students in Baltimore, California's Bay Area, Chicago, Memphis, Milwaukee, New York City, and Washington, DC. Over the next decade, New Leaders will build a 2,000-person national principal corps to impact one million urban students annually. The final application deadline for the 2007-2008 program year is March 1, 2007.

TTT-friendly university earns NCATE accreditation

Military veterans and/or their spouses looking for an alternative avenue toward teacher certification received more good news from Western Governors University (WGU).

WGU, an online university offering financial incentives for veterans, received accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). WGU is the first nontraditional provider accredited by NCATE, the country's professional accrediting organization for schools, colleges, and departments of education.



Over the summer WGU announced a \$1,500 scholarship to members of Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers, which helps military spouses find careers as public school teachers.

WGU is the only NCATE accredited university in the U.S. offering online competency-based degree programs. The private, non-profit university was founded and is supported by 19 governors, as well as over 20 leading corporations and foundations. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, and teacher education.

To visit their Troops to Teacher site, go to www.wgu.edu/ttt.

NBC Nightly News highlights TTT

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of the Troops to Teachers program.

NBC originally got the idea for a Troops to Teachers story through a regional NBC producer based out of Atlanta, who had read a story about the program in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The AJC story featured Army veteran Ritchie Holliman and retired Air Force reservist Patricia Johnson.

According to a recent news story, NBC has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in evening news ratings, with an average nightly viewership of 8.5 million.

"I learned just to be patient because you can't win a war in a day. If I can reach one kid a day, it keeps me coming back the next day."

— Daniel Worley

Regional TV stations showcase local participants

Daniel Worley's NBC Nightly News spot might have had the biggest audience, but the Charlotte history teacher wasn't the only Troops to Teacher to make the evening news.

Since Oct., four participants have appeared on their respective local TV news program: Larry Barrows (Colchester, Vt.), Joel Gustafson (Bismarck, N.D.), Oscar Deloney (Atlanta, Ga.) and Paul Gregg (Durham, N.C.).

Barrows, a 21-year Air Force vet, is a para educator at Colchester Middle School. He was forced to retire from the Air Force because of a degenerative eye condition and said that without Troops to Teachers, "I would have been pretty much stuck at home."

Gustafson was filmed in his classroom, working with

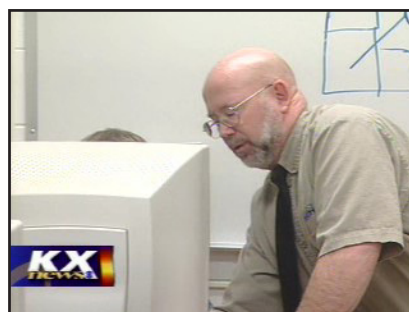
students while teaching his electronics class. He is in his seventh year of teaching after spending 22 years in the Coast Guard.

Deloney was filmed in his Riverdale Middle School classroom, where he is in his second year of teaching math after 22 years in the Navy.

Want to watch?

To watch the TV segment on Joel Gustafson, click [here](#).

To watch the segment on Oscar Deloney, click [here](#).



Coast Guard veteran Joel Gustafson

Deloney's principal, Dr. Mildred McCoy, told the cameras: "He is very much in charge. He has that kind of personality where the children know when he's serious. They know when it's time to buckle down and get ready to learn mathematics. But he also has the personality type that allows him to loosen up some, and that makes him a good teacher."

Connections

Saipan's Troops to Teachers visits national office

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) established its own version of Troops to Teachers last April, prompting an invitation from the Pensacola national office which the CNMI group accepted in November.

CNMI Public School System education specialist Geri Lynn Willis paid a five-day visit, along with Fred Camacho and Roman Benavente, U.S. Army Reserve soldiers from Echo Company, 100th Bn, 442nd Inf. The group met with TTT and DANTES staff, exchanging ideas and program information.

Camacho and Benavente, two of the CNMI program's original participants, are assistant teaching at Saipan's Koblerville Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School.

Willis said there are 15 troop members that have signed up and trained for the program. She hopes the number of the returning soldier and military personnel participants would double next year.



CNMI's Troops to Teachers director Geri Lynn Willis (far right) paid a visit to Pensacola's national office, along with CNMI Troops to Teacher participants Fred Camacho (second from left) and Roman Benavente (second from right). The group met with TTT officials, including Chief Dr. John Gantz (far left).

Have something to share?

Do you have an opinion, story, photo, news or any other type of item you think would make a good addition to *TTT Connections*, the Troops to Teachers newsletter? If so, let us hear about it.

E-mail Troops to Teachers, att: Jim Scavino at ttt@voled.doded.mil.

